Decentralisation of procurement of foodgrains

2689. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed a resolution unanimously urging the centre to drop the proposal to decentralise the work relating the procurement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the resolution has been received by his Ministry;

(c) the detailed agreements put forward in favour of the demand; and

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to continue the present system of paddy procurement to ensure Minimum Support Price for paddy to the farmers.

(d) It has been clarified to the States including Andhra Pradesh that the scheme of decentralized procurement of foodgrains would not be imposed on any State against their wishes. The present arrangement of procurement of foodgrains would continue where States are not yet prepared to shift to a decentralized system of procurement.